

LARRY STRIKES AS WANDERERS GO STORMING ON



LARRY PRITCHARD
... two goals

SKIPPER Larry Pritchard made Wycombe Wanderers' 500 mile journey to Evenwood all worth while on Saturday with two first half headers that put the Blues out of reach from their hard and physical opponents.

Wanderers are now in the last 16 of this, the final Amateur Cup competition and after Saturday's performance they must be one of the favourites for the Wembley final in April, especially as Hendon have still to beat Harwich and Parkstone after three attempts.

The way Wycombe offset several problems to overcome Evenwood was a mark of their allround strength. Firstly, the Blues had to shrug off the effects of a long journey up north by plane and coach and when they reached the Welfare ground they were confronted by a blustery wind and later over-physical opposition.

But they overcame all these, and after some excellent attacking football in the first half they restricted Evenwood with a methodical defensive blockade in the second. It worked perfectly. The Northern Leaguers had just a couple of chances in the whole game and Steve Perrin rubbed further salt into their wounds with a fine third goal a few minutes from the final whistle.

Wanderers knew full well that they would have to match the spirit and competitiveness of Evenwood. They also had a fair idea of the tactics they could expect. Evenwood certainly didn't lack the competitive spirit but several of their challenges belonged to a wrestling ring rather than a football pitch.

Chief offender was No. 6, Tony Monkhouse, who was heckled throughout the game after a wicked "tackle" that completely laid out Steve Perrin. Monkhouse was booked late in the second half.

But Evenwood's niggling approach to this game did them no good at all. They were badly exposed by the Wycombe raids in the first half and man for man, they just couldn't match Wanderers for skill.

The Blues made a couple of changes from the side at Bracknell last Sunday. Terry Reardon came back into mid-field while Dylan Evans replaced Tony Price up front. Phil Wood was preferred to Rob Williams at full back, Rob wearing the No. 12 shirt.

Wanderers started well, forcing a couple of early corners which came to nothing. The first sign of Evenwood's attacking ability was in the fourth minute when they broke out of defence and Steve Boulton worked a one-two before shooting low for goal. Maskell got down well to save. The 'keeper then had to

push Eddie Ross's in-swinger corner aside for another flag kick.

Wycombe's best chance in the early stages came in the 15th minute when Monkhouse slipped and was robbed by Perrin on the edge of the area. Steve crossed to the unmarked Dylan Evans whose well struck

minute, they went ahead. The goal was made by Evans, who had a fine game throughout. He tricked full back Bob Tookey with a superb dummy leaving the Evenwood skipper completely stranded. Evans ran on and crossed on the left foot into the box. The ball skimmed the head of Monkhouse and was met firmly by Pritchard who steered

to stray into the middle but neither he nor Grant were seriously threatened on the flanks.

Meanwhile, Wanderers still looked dangerous up front. Evans showed admirable control on a greasy surface while Perrin's long stride often had the Evenwood rearguard stretched

content to sit on their two-goal lead. With more possession, Evenwood came forward regularly and after 50 minutes Mead was caught in possession for about the only time in the game which gave Graham Dearden a chance. But he dallied too long and the opportunity was wasted.

strangely trying to force their way through the middle instead of using their successful first-half tactics of exploiting the wings.

In the closing stages Evenwood carved out their best chance of the tie. Firstly Bourgoise hit a strong drive towards the net, only to see Grant clear off the line and then the same player headed powerfully but straight at Maskell following Boulton's cross.

Bullock cleared Hallimond's effort off the line with four minutes remaining but during those closing seconds Perrin broke away to score Wycombe's third goal. It was Evans who laid on the goal with a superb crossfield cross pass, right into Perrin's path. Steve lengthed his stride and then cracked the ball under Grampton's desperate dive. By then, it was all over and the mission up north accomplished.

By **STUART EARP:** Evenwood Town 0, Wycombe Wanderers 3

drive was saved by Brian Crampton at the second attempt.

It was the signal for some great football from Wanderers. They sent their passes skidding across the pitch with measured accuracy and repeatedly found holes in the home defence. Pritchard fired hurriedly over the top in the 16th minute before Evenwood committed their first serious foul. Dave Bullock went up for a high ball and caught Boulton's elbow flush on the nose. Bullock was dazed for a couple of minutes before he could continue, while Boulton's crime went unpunished by referee Butcher.

Wycombe seemed unperturbed by the tactics and in the 24th

his header towards the far corner. Crampton got his fingertips to the ball but couldn't stop it rolling over the line.

Wycombe continued to fox the home side with some clever football but there were one or two chinks in their armour. Three corners were hit behind the goal-line, completely wasting good scoring opportunities.

Thanks to the efforts of centre back Colin Hallimond, Evenwood managed to stave off further Wycombe pressure for a time, but they failed to muster anything worthwhile up front. Keith Mead and Bullock snuffed out any possibility of aerial danger and looked a really solid combination at the centre of defence. Phil Wood tended

to the limits. One would have thought they would have learned their lesson with Pritchard's first goal but in the 40th minute, the same player notched the vital second goal.

Evans won a corner on the left which Grant flighted perfectly into the middle. No-one picked up Pritchard as he made his usual run towards the near post, the England international heading sweetly past the stranded Crampton. Soon afterwards Bullock got up well to Holifield's corner but Hallimond was near the line to boot the ball to safety.

The half-time whistle went soon afterwards and in the second period Wycombe seemed

Mick Holifield broke through five minutes later and forced a diving save from Crampton but it was an all-too-rare glimpse of this player's ability and pace.

Billy Heron replaced Deardon with Ross moving up front in the 67th minute and the latter soon made his presence felt on John Maskell. John was already suffering with a reoccurrence of a shoulder injury when Ross punched the ball out of the 'keeper's hands as he prepared for a goal kick. Maskell was having none of it and threw Ross to the ground. Referee Butcher had a word with Maskell before awarding a free kick to Wycombe.

Play became scrappy as the game wore on with Wanderers

EVENWOOD: B. Crampton; R. Tookey, E. Ross, D. Armstrong, C. Hallimond; A. Monkhouse, V. Bourgoise, S. Boulton; G. Deardon (sub. W. Heron 87 min.), C. Arthur, C. Aldred.
WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Wood, K. Mead, D. Bullock, R. Grant; T. Reardon; L. Pritchard, M. Holifield, A. Horseman, D. Evans, S. Perrin. Sub. R. Williams (not used).
Referee: D. Butcher (Kendall).
Half-time: 0-2. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Pritchard 2 (24, 40), Perrin (88).
Official attendance: 980.